



# General Assembly

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**Seventieth session**  
**Second Committee**

Agenda item 22 (d)

**Globalization and interdependence: development  
cooperation with middle-income countries**

**South Africa:\* draft resolution**

**Development cooperation with middle-income countries**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the outcomes of all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields,

*Reaffirming* its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, recognizing that it builds on the Millennium Development Goals and seeks to complete their unfinished business, and stressing the importance of the implementation of this new ambitious Agenda, which has poverty eradication at its core and aims to promote the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development,

*Recalling* that this new Agenda recognizes, inter alia, that middle-income countries still face significant challenges in achieving sustainable development, and recognizing that, in order to ensure that achievements made to date are sustained, efforts to address ongoing challenges should be strengthened through the exchange of experiences, improved coordination and better and focused support by the United Nations development system, the international financial institutions, regional organizations and other stakeholders,

*Reaffirming* its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015, entitled “Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development”, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it and helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions within the framework of a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development,

*Reaffirming also* its resolution 67/226 of 21 December 2012, entitled “Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for

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\* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.



development of the United Nations system”, in which it recognized that middle-income countries still face specific development challenges,

*Recalling* its resolutions 63/223 of 19 December 2008, 64/208 of 21 December 2009, 66/212 of 22 December 2011 and 68/222 of 20 December 2013,

*Taking note* of the outcomes of the international conferences on development cooperation with middle-income countries held in Madrid on 1 and 2 March 2007,<sup>1</sup> in San Salvador on 3 and 4 October 2007,<sup>2</sup> in Windhoek from 4 to 6 August 2008<sup>3</sup> and in San José from 12 to 14 June 2013,<sup>4</sup>

*Noting* the regional conferences on development cooperation with middle-income countries held in Cairo on 11 and 12 March 2008, in Minsk on 16 and 17 May 2013 and in Amman on 23 May 2013,

*Recognizing* the need for the United Nations development system to provide better and focused support to middle-income countries to address their significant challenges, in accordance with national circumstances and taking into account the diversity of middle-income countries,

*Emphasizing* that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, highlighting the need to respect each country’s policy space and leadership to implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development, and recognizing that national development efforts need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, including coherent and mutually supported world trade, monetary and financial systems, and strengthened and enhanced global economic governance,

*Highlighting* that processes to develop and facilitate the availability of appropriate knowledge and technologies in developing countries, including middle-income countries, as well as capacity-building are also critical for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Recalling* all of the principles supported by the United Nations system, including those of predictability, universality and progressivity, and reaffirming the importance of providing strategic support to all programme countries, at the request of the national Government, in order to address their specific needs,

*Highlighting* that development cooperation strategies for middle-income countries should be adapted to each particular context and help to preserve and sustain their economic, environmental and social achievements, and that such cooperation should not come at the expense of aid to least developed countries,

*Noting* that national averages based on criteria such as per capita income do not always reflect the actual particularities and development needs of middle-income countries, and recognizing the significant diversity of middle-income countries,

*Recalling* that, despite notable progress in reducing poverty levels in both absolute and relative terms, poverty remains a problem in many middle-income

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<sup>1</sup> See [A/62/71-E/2007/46](#), annex.

<sup>2</sup> See [A/62/483-E/2007/90](#), annex.

<sup>3</sup> See [A/C.2/63/3](#), annexes I and II.

<sup>4</sup> See [A/C.2/68/5](#).

countries and inequalities also remain, and that further investment in social services and economic opportunities are needed in order to reduce those inequalities,

*Recognizing* that high degrees of inequality may contribute to vulnerability in middle-income countries and constrain sustainable development in many of those countries, and that economic growth needs to be sustained, inclusive and equitable,

*Stressing* that middle-income countries continue to face particular challenges, inter alia, related to job creation, the diversification and transformation of their economies, and access to technologies and international markets and integration into global value chains, and, in this regard, that national efforts should be complemented by supportive global programmes measures and policies aimed at creating an enabling environment at the international level for development,

*Stressing also* the need to consider a gap-based approach in identifying priorities for cooperation with middle-income countries, in accordance with their national priorities, taking into account different structural gaps in poverty eradication, in terms of, inter alia, inequality, investment, savings, productivity, innovation, infrastructure, education, health, the environment and fiscal structures, that are holding back sustained, equitable and inclusive growth,

*Recognizing* the challenges faced by middle-income countries in achieving sustainable development, understood as the balanced integration of its three dimensions, with poverty eradication at its core, in their national policies and programmes,

*Recognizing also* the need to better understand the multidimensional nature of development and poverty, and acknowledging the significant role that the United Nations system has played and should continue to play in this regard,

*Expressing concern* regarding the effects of the sluggish global growth in gross domestic product that falls short of expectations, and in this regard reiterating the need to coordinate macroeconomic policies in order to address structural and long-term problems in the aftermath of the international financial crisis, including excessive fluctuation in commodity prices, to support the economic recovery and to minimize negative effects on developing countries, which will in turn provide timely and substantial support to boost development in both developed and developing countries,

*Stressing* the importance of inclusiveness within the United Nations development system, and that observer States be taken into account in the implementation of the present resolution,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>5</sup>
2. *Acknowledges* the efforts made and successes achieved by many middle-income countries in their work towards eradicating poverty and achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, as well as their significant contribution to global and regional development and economic stability;

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<sup>5</sup> A/70/227.

3. *Also acknowledges* that identifying structural gaps can improve the understanding of development needs of developing countries, including middle-income countries;

4. *Underlines* the need for sustained efforts towards achieving debt sustainability in middle-income countries in order to avoid a debt crisis, and to that end notes and encourages further efforts by international financial institutions to enhance facilities for them;

5. *Recognizes* that middle-income countries still face significant challenges in their efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals as established in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>6</sup> and the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals, and in that regard underlines the importance of international support, in various forms, that is well aligned with national priorities to address the development needs of middle-income countries, including through capacity-building;

6. *Also recognizes* that, with two thirds of the world's poor population concentrated in middle-income countries, cooperation aimed at those countries can have a multiplying effect by contributing significantly to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

7. *Welcomes* the solidarity of middle-income countries with other developing countries, in particular the financial, technical, technology transfer and capacity-building support being provided by middle-income countries, particularly to the least developed countries, through South-South and triangular cooperation, while stressing that South-South cooperation is a complement to, and not a substitute for, North-South cooperation, and in this regard calls upon the United Nations development system to continue its ongoing efforts to mainstream support to South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation;

8. *Recognizes* that middle-income countries still face significant challenges in achieving sustainable development, stresses that efforts to address ongoing challenges should be strengthened through the exchange of experiences, improved coordination and better-focused support by the United Nations development system, and in this regard stresses the need to adopt criteria that go beyond gross domestic product per capita in the allocation of support by the United Nations development system to programme countries, taking into account the need to address poverty in all its forms and dimensions and structural gaps at all levels;

9. *Stresses*, in that regard, that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review negotiations in 2016 should give due consideration to strengthening United Nations system support to developing countries, including middle-income countries;

10. *Requests* the United Nations development system, in close coordination with the United Nations Development Programme, to convene a meeting to consider how to provide better, focused, coherent and comprehensive support to middle-income countries in order to strengthen their efforts to overcome the significant challenges they face in achieving sustainable development;

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<sup>6</sup> Resolution 70/1.

11. *Calls upon* developed country members and developing country members of the World Trade Organization declaring themselves in a position to do so to realize the timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all products originating from all least developed countries, consistent with the decisions of the World Trade Organization, and also calls upon those countries to take steps to facilitate market access for products of least developed countries, including by developing simple and transparent rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries, in accordance with the guidelines adopted by the members of the World Trade Organization at its Ninth Ministerial Conference, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 3 to 7 December 2013;

12. *Recognizes* the importance of the role of the private sector as well as the role of public-private partnerships in meeting the challenges of sustainable development for middle-income countries and other developing countries;

13. *Decides* to enhance North-South, South-South and triangular, regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through the technology facilitation mechanism, and to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed;

14. *Also decides* to enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;

15. *Recognizes* the great importance of providing trade-related capacity-building, inter alia, for the promotion of regional economic integration and interconnectivity for developing countries, including middle-income countries;

16. *Acknowledges* that official development assistance and other concessional finance are still important for a number of middle-income countries and have a role to play for targeted results, taking into account the specific needs of these countries, and in this regard encourages shareholders in multilateral development banks to develop graduation policies that are sequenced, phased and gradual, and to explore ways to ensure that their assistance best addresses the opportunity and challenges presented by the diverse circumstances of middle-income countries;

17. *Urges* the entities of the United Nations development system, in particular the funds and programmes, and the regional commissions, in accordance with their respective mandates, to improve support for middle-income countries and to improve coordination and exchange of experiences with other international organizations, international financial institutions and regional organizations in this field;

18. *Recognizes* the need for the United Nations system to continue providing development assistance to middle-income countries that is aligned with their national strategies and policies while targeting their existing and emerging needs, particularly with regard to sustainable development challenges and including policy advice and formulation, technical cooperation and other modalities of assistance,

taking into account the development needs of and support for least developed countries to strengthen their national capacities and reduce their external vulnerability;

19. *Also recognizes* that Governments will have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review of progress in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and that quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data will be needed, and in this regard calls upon the international community to intensify efforts to enhance capacity-building support, including the strengthening of national data systems and evaluation programmes in developing countries, including middle-income countries;

20. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to include observer States in the implementation of the present resolution;

21. *Stresses* the need to give appropriate consideration to the concerns and specific challenges of middle-income countries in the follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in this regard calls upon the Secretary-General to give appropriate consideration to this issue in his annual progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals;

22. *Calls upon* the inter-agency task force that will be convened by the Secretary-General in order to ensure a strengthened follow-up process for the financing for development outcomes and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to give appropriate consideration to the specific challenges and development needs of middle-income countries in its annual report of progress;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with all regional commissions, to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including a comprehensive assessment of the support provided by the United Nations development system for development cooperation with middle-income countries, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of that session, under the item entitled “Globalization and interdependence”, the sub-item entitled “Development cooperation with middle-income countries”.

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